

TORSION MANAGEMENT OUTSOLES AND
SHOES INCLUDING SUCH OUTSOLES

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

JK
8/14/06

10 This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Application No. 10/047.320, filed January 14, 2002, ^{now U.S. Patent No. 6,708,426} which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

15 The present invention is directed to an outsole. More particularly, the present invention is directed to a golf shoe having an improved outsole that enables greater torsional movement and flexibility of the shoe.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Historically, people first wore shoes to protect their feet. Over the centuries, footwear evolved into many different types that were specific to particular activities. Thus, the protection offered by a cold-weather work boot is highly different from that offered by a running shoe. In addition to protecting the feet, athletic footwear has further developed to offer specific functions dependent on the particular sport. Soccer shoes, for instance, have spikes for traction, whereas cycling shoes have very stiff soles with mounting plates for cleats to engage the pedal. In this manner, golf shoes have evolved to provide the wearer with good traction on grass, comfort while walking, and a stable platform for hitting the ball. Typical golf shoes thus have a relatively stiff sole with metal spikes or plastic cleats.

30 A stiff sole, while providing a stable platform, can nonetheless cause discomfort because there is a balance between how the foot should be allowed to move versus how it should be supported. An example of this is the fact that during walking and at the start and finish of the golf swing, the foot bends at the metatarsal joints (the ball). Aside from the physical effort needed to flex a very stiff sole (which would tend to cause a 'clunky' gait as when wearing clogs), sole stiffness tends to cause the heel of the foot to slide up and down in the heel cup, potentially causing blisters. Thus, golf shoes have evolved to have soles that flex